G.A.R.

1866

THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

THE CLARION CALL

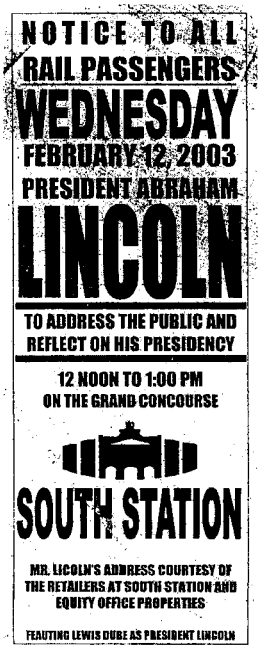
Newsletter of the Department of Massachusetts

VOLUME No. I ISSUE No. IV JANUARY 2003

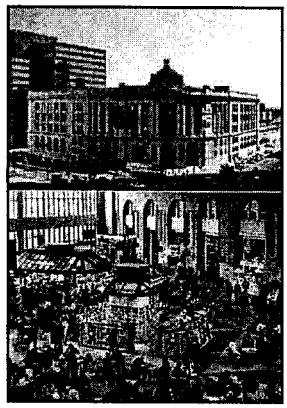
S.U.V.C.W.

1881

SOUTH STATION & DEPARTMENT TO SPONSOR WEEK OF CIVIL WAR EVENTS AT BOSTON'S SOUTH STATION



South Station and the Department of Massachusetts SUVCW will be hosting a series of events at Boston's historic South Station, February 9th through 16th, 2003, highlighting Civil War history and the Civil War community throughout New England.



Sons of Union Veterans Camps, Civil War Reenacting groups, Civil War Roundtables, Historical Societies, Civil War Bands, and Victorian Dance troupes from around the New England region will be participating in these events.

This will be a spectacular opportunity to promote our organization and strengthen our membership. Approximately 130,000 commuters pass through South Station daily, and these events will give all participants great public exposure.

Recruiting tables will be set up throughout the week, and we are requesting that Members from each Camp in the Department participate in staffing them. Volunteers should contact JVC Kevin Tucker at (617) 201-0702, in order to schedule hours at recruiting tables.

Lewis Dubé as Lincoln

Civil War events will be held in the Grand Concourse of the South Station from **February 9th through the 16nd, 2003**, and planned activities will include:

A Brunch in Celebration of the Life of President Abraham Lincoln
Sunday, February 9th, 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM
Call (617) 201-0702 for tickets (Donation: $15.00)

Heritage String Band

Lewis Dubé as Abraham Lincoln with reflections on his Presidency
Free Public Performance Wednesday, February 12th, 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM

Music from the Civil War featuring the Heritage String Band
Free Public Performance Friday, February 14th 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Blue and Gray Ball featuring the Camp Lincoln String Band and the Commonwealth Vintage Dancers with Dancemaster Patri Pugliese
Free Public Performance Saturday, February 15th 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM
All Civil War community groups are invited to participate.

Additional events will be announced on our website at www.suvmass.org

Contact the Editors at: THE CLARION CALL 14 Crestview Terrace Gloucester, MA 01930 Email: signals@suvmass.org

A Trip to Remembrance

By William T. Ryerson, Sr., PDC

On Thursday, November 14th, members of the Department of Massachusetts joined the 11th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry and their invited guests, for a 4 day trip to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania to participate in Remembrance Day events. The following are PDC Bill Ryerson's daily recollections and observations of the trip.

Thursday, Nov. 14th, 2002: We rose before dawn, in order to reach Auburndale, MA before our bus was to depart for Gettysburg, (at 8 AM). The 11th Mass. started making this trip an annual event in November of 2000, and this year the Department of Massachusetts became a co-sponsor of the trip as part of our effort to have the Department become more active in Civil War events.

Our group listens as the guide gives an overview of the battle at Antietam.

The bus rolled through the countryside on a beautiful late Autumn day, and, after picking up Department Commander Bob Knight, Vermont PDC "Tuffy" Doyle and his wife Teresa in Sturbridge, Mass., we continued on, stopping briefly for lunch just above West Point, NY. We continued on our journey, through "forest and dale", spotting many deer, (alive and dead) finally arriving at our destination, the Quality Inn, next to the battlefield in Gettysburg, at 5:30 PM.

DC Knight and 11th Mass. Color Sgt. Rick Eccleston examine the plants at the Antietam battlefield

Friday, Nov. 15th, 2002: After dinner and a good night's rest, we hit the road for the Antietam battlefield in Sharpsburg, MD, at 7 AM, Friday morning.
The weather was beautiful in Maryland, and we had the pleasure of touring the battlefield while our guide gave a fascinating narrative on the battle. DC Bob Knight took time to examine the flora at Antietam, picking corn, black walnuts, and even some bug nests, to take back as souvenirs.
We returned to Gettysburg after lunch and I, joined by DC Bob Knight, Vermont PDC "Tuffy" Doyle and Dept. Historian Dean Sargent, headed out for a late afternoon stroll through the historic Gettysburg National and Evergreen Cemeteries.

Saturday, Nov. 16th, 2002: On Saturday morning, we awoke to a wet day, but it was only a light rain and every one of the men of the 11th Mass., (except your writer) persevered and marched in the Remembrance Day parade through Gettysburg.

I spent the day taking photographs of the activities, including the recitation of the Gettysburg Address by Jim Gettys, (a.k.a. Abraham Lincoln) the "Hands Across the Wall" ceremony at the Gettysburg battlefield's stone wall, (the High Water Mark of the Confederacy) and the ceremony at the Woolson Monument.

After a change into dry clothes, Al Barton, (of Camp 104) and his wife, Ann, (both of whom drive to Gettysburg several times each year, as they did for this weekend) took yours truly, Dept. Historian Dean Sargent and Dept. Commander Bob Knight to Fayetteville, for supper at the famous Ryan's Family Restaurant, where you can eat all you want for under ten dollars. (It should be noted that, by everyone's calculation, there is a high probability that the restaurant lost money on Commander Knight.)

Later in the evening, most of the group went to the National Civil War Ball at the Eisenhower Inn, in Gettysburg, and, as always, had a great time dancing the

Vermont PDC "Tuffy" Doyle visits the Masons Memorial in Gettysburg, along with Dept. Historian Dean Sargent and DC Bob Knight.

night away with the lovely young ladies who attended, returning to the motel around 1:30 AM, Sunday morning.

Sunday, Nov. 17th, 2002: On Sunday morning, Dept. JVC Kevin Tucker, (the trip's organizer) allowed us to sleep late, with the exception of SVC John Bates, who was up at the crack of dawn in order to make his farewell tour of every antique shop in Gettysburg, completing his spree by purchasing a beautiful presentation sword. (It is said that John's collection now rivals that of Dept. Historian Dean Sargent).

Dept. of Mass. Members pose with Colonel Robert Twomey, U.S. Army, President Bush's liaison to the SUV, just prior to the start of the Remembrance Day parade.

The Dept. Of Mass. marches into the wet Gettysburg battlefield as part of the Remembrance Day Parade in Gettysburg.

We rolled out of town on our aluminum chariot just before noon on another rainy day, but thanks to Col. Frank Tucker's awful jokes and John Bates' video collection, we had a good time on the ride home, returning to Auburndale about 8:30 PM.

Thanks to Kevin and Frank Tucker, the 11th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry's Third Annual Remembrance Day Weekend Trip to Gettysburg was a great success.

Pvt. Eric Neale & Cpl. Ricky Eccleston, Jr., (of Camp 104) find much to admire at the SUV's Blue-Gray Ball in Gettysburg.

The "Hands Across the Wall" ceremony at the "High Water Mark of the Confederacy", on the Gettysburg battlefield.

Camp 104 CC Harold Reynolds and his wife, New Hampshire PDC David Proper, Vermont PDC "Tuffy" Doyle and his wife and Richard Lufkin from "Rhoddy", (and Camp 18) along with all the members of the 11th Mass. reported that they had a great time, and many are already looking forward to next year's "**Trip to Remembrance**". - Bill Ryerson

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Civil War Study Program at Mansfield School

On Thursday, March 6th, Brother John Moon of A. A. Sherman Camp No. 18 and Linda Swallow of the Mansfield School Department will be presenting S.U.V. "Certificates of Achievement" in the study of Civil War history, to students of the Qualters Middle School in Mansfield, MA.

Ms. Swallow, the school librarian, coordinates the Mansfield Schools' annual Civil War Exposition, which includes a Civil War studies program in which students must make 3-5 minute oral presentations, 3-5 page written presentations and a physical presentation, (such as dioramas, videos, plays, etc.) on various Civil War topics. Students who successfully complete the course will be awarded the S.U.V. certificates.

Brother Moon will be giving short talks on various Civil War topics to some of the classes, and is looking for a few more SUV volunteers to participate. The Exposition takes place Thursday, March 6th, from 12:00 to 2:00. Those interested in participating can contact John Moon at (508) 460-1849, or Linda Swallow at (508)261-7530, for further details.

Resolutions 101

By Frank J. Tucker, Camp 104

The policy of the SUVCW is set by resolutions adopted at Department and National Encampments. Most resolutions originate at the Camp level. All resolutions of Department wide concern must be acted upon at the Department Encampment. Those resolutions approved at the Department Encampment which affect matters outside Department boundaries must be forwarded to the National Encampment by the Department Secretary for final disposal. A resolution disapproved by the Department Encampment will not be considered by the National Encampment.

Resolutions may also be originated by Department Officers or the Department Encampment itself and acted upon by the Department Encampment. A National Officer may originate a resolution concerning National affairs and submit it directly to the National Encampment without Department action. Likewise, a National Encampment committee may originate a resolution and present it during the National Encampment.

Proposed amendments to the National Constitution and Regulations must also have Department approval if submitted by a Camp. Such proposals must be definite and specific as to material to be deleted or added, containing the exact wording of the proposed changes. Resolutions or changes in the C & R not in proper form, unclear as to meaning, or concerning matters not within the scope of the SUVCW cannot be considered by the Encampment.

Generally speaking, a resolution contains two separate parts: the problem, which is detailed in the "WHEREAS" clauses and the solution, which is given in the "BE IT RESOLVED" section.

When submitting resolutions to the Department Encampment, a notation on the bottom should show any previous action taken, such as approval by a Camp.

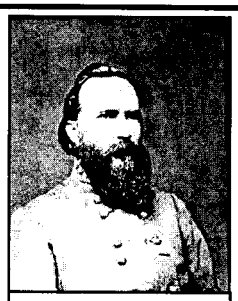
On the Lighter Side...

DC Knight exhibits his athletic and foraging skills at the cornfield on the Antietam battlefield, after being informed by Treasurer Parks that his travel expense funds were cut off and he would have to fend for himself. (Not bad for a Korean War Veteran!)

"This is yor lucky day, John. I have to get rid of all my weapons. On sale from Baghdad, the "Mother of All Swords"!
Yahoo! Gotta have it! Where's my wallet?!

Dept. SVC John Bates: Weapons Collector

Cartoon by Frank Tucker



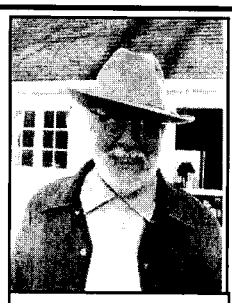
Confederate General James Longstreet

My Civil War Ancestor

Confederates In My Attic!

Lieutenant General James Longstreet, C.S.A.

by William T. Ryerson, Sr., PDC



Author's Step-father Wightman "Ty" Tyson

In July of 2002, my stepfather, Wightman Shearer Tyson, better known to me as "Ty", passed away. He would have been 102 years old in October, having been born in Macon, Mississippi in 1900.

Although Ty was my stepdad for 34 years, I had known him all my life, as his first wife was my uncle's-wife's-sister, and my relationship to him was more like that of an uncle rather than a stepdad.

Ty grew up in Starkville, Mississippi and Atlanta, Georgia. After graduating from Mississippi State College in 1923, he served in the U.S. Army as a Second Lieutenant, and then for five years as Deputy Chancery Clerk of Noxubee County, Mississippi. He next got a job with the United Fruit Company, in Guatemala, where he met his first wife, Thelma England. They moved to Medford, Massachusetts, and Ty became an examiner with the Shawmut Bank. Eventually, Ty retired to Warwick, Massachusetts, in 1965.

With my knowledge of his background, and my interest in genealogy and history, I asked Ty many times about growing up in the South, and inquired whether he had any relatives that fought for the Confederacy. All he ever answered was "Ah, you don't want to hear about that stuff". On joining the SUVCW about twenty years ago, I proudly showed Ty my Membership Card. He handed it back to me with no comment.

At his Memorial Service, held on August 3, 2002 in Orange, Massachusetts, the minister gave a beautiful accounting of Ty's journey through life, starting with, "Wightman S. Tyson, born in Macon, Mississippi, the 10th child of John Anderson Tyson and Fanny Longstreet, niece of General James Longstreet, CSA". I almost fell out of my chair!

Inquiring of my stepsister after the service, I found that his mother died when Ty was very young and he was raised by another of General Longstreet's nieces, and that his foster-father was a Confederate Veteran by the name of "Shearer", (the middle name that Ty adopted). This kind and gentle "Son of the South", who I had known all my life and was my stepfather, pulled a good one on me, never telling about his Confederate family, (of whom he was most proud) and keeping his Civil War connections to himself, as he lived out his long life in "Union Territory".

His Great-uncle, James Longstreet entered West Point from Alabama, graduated in 1842, and was wounded at Chapultepec, in Mexico. With two brevets and the staff rank of major, he resigned his commission on June 1, 1861, and joined the Confederacy. Longstreet made three mistakes that have denied him his deserved place in Southern posterity: 1. He argued with Lee at Gettysburg. 2. He was right. 3. He became a Republican.

Longstreet opposed attacking at Gettysburg, in favor of maneuvering Meade out of his position. Longstreet, who had come to believe in the strategic offense and the tactical defense, was proven right when the Confederate attacks on the second and third days were repulsed.

Later in the war, at the Wilderness, he was severely wounded in the confusion of battle, by Confederate troops. He recovered and resumed command in during the Petersburg operations and commanded on the north side of the James. Lee's "Old War Horse" remained with his chief through the surrender at Appomattox.

After the war he befriended General Grant and became a Republican. He served as President Grant's minister to Turkey. He also served as commissioner of Pacific Railroads under Mckinley and Roosevelt, from 1897 to 1904. Criticized by many former Confederates, he struck back with his book, From Manassas to Appomattox. He outlived most of his high-ranking postwar detractors. He died and was buried at Gainsville, Georgia, on January 2, 1904, the last of the high command of the Confederacy.

Editor's Note: "My Civil War Ancestor" is a regular feature in The Clarion Call. Members of the Department of Massachusetts are strongly encouraged to submit a story relating to and photograph of, (if available) their Civil War Ancestor to the The Clarion Call for future publication.

The 2003 Department of Massachusetts

Annual Encampment

will be held at the

Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center on Cedar Lake

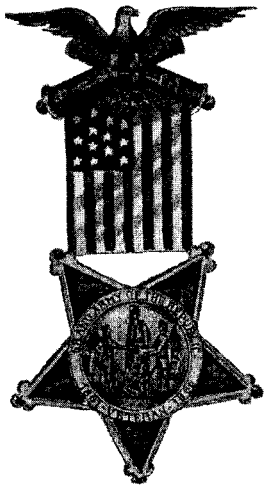
366 Main Street, Sturbridge, Massachusetts

Friday, May 9th and Saturday, May 10th, 2003

SUVCW Room Rate: $94 per night (double occupancy)

Call for Reservations: (508) 347-7393

G.A.R.



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